

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing various document signing functions to be performed by users at a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems coupled to a document computer-based system over a data network, the method comprising:

displaying an electronic document at one of the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems;

identifying one or more blocks of unedited text for at least one signature task;

uniquely identifying the identified blocks of unedited text;

assigning one or more other users to one or more of the blocks of text in a registered document;

allowing for review of the uniquely identifying blocks of unedited text, that are assigned to the one or more other users, for one or more of the assigned blocks of unedited text selecting an option from a list consisting of: an acceptance option and a decline option, and for executing a digital signature of the document;

registering documents at the document computer-based system, the registering comprising:

identifying designated blocks of unedited text; and

verifying the correctness of uniquely identified blocks of unedited text; ~~and~~

storing information of the users associated with the assigned blocks of unedited text of a registered document and digital signature certificates for users preregistered with the document computer-based system;

storing digital signatures of documents;

storing the users' selections of the acceptance or decline options;
allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks; and
allowing retrieval of the stored digital signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

4. (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 3, wherein the assigning one or more other users to one or more of the blocks of text further comprises assigning a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

5. (Currently Amended) A system for allowing various document signing functions, the system being coupled to a document signing server over a data network, the system comprising:

a user interface component for displaying an electronic document the user of the computer-based system desires to assign signing functions thereto, and for identifying one or more blocks of text for at least one signature task;

a processing component for uniquely identifying the identified blocks of unedited text; and

a browser component comprising:

an assigning component for assigning one or more other users to one or more of the uniquely identified blocks of unedited text in a registered document by the document signing server; and

a signing component for allowing review of the assigned blocks of unedited text, that are assigned to the one or more other users, for one or more of the assigned blocks of unedited text selecting an option from a list consisting of: an acceptance option and a decline option, and for executing a digital signature of the document; and

a component for storing the selections of the acceptance or decline options.

6. (Original): The system of Claim 5, wherein the assigning component further assigns a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A method for allowing various document signing functions to be performed by users at a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems coupled to a document repository computer-based system over a data network, the method comprising:

displaying the electronic document that is stored in a document repository computer-

based system at one of the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems;

recording a designation of one or more blocks of text for signature tasks at the document repository computer-based system;

recording an assignment of one or more users of the document repository computer-

based system to one or more of the recorded designated blocks of text in a

registered document at the document repository computer-based system;

presenting for review the blocks of text that are assigned;

recording a selection of at least one of an acceptance option or a decline option for

each of the assigned blocks of text at the document repository computer-based system;

executing an electronic signature of the assigned blocks of text; and

registering the electronic document at the document repository computer-based system.

9. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the registered electronic document includes the designated blocks of text and associated users, an indication of a verification of the correctness of the designated blocks of text, information about the users assigned to the designated blocks of

text, and electronic signature credentials for users registered with the document repository computer-based system.

10. (New) The system of Claim 9, further comprising:

allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks; and
allowing retrieval of the stored electronic signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

11. (New) The system of Claim 8, wherein recording an assignment further comprises assigning a completion deadline for the assigned users to complete assigned actions.

12. (New) A document repository computer-based system for allowing various document signing functions, the system being coupled to a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems over a data network, the system comprising:

a first component configured to store an electronic document;
a second component configured to allow a user to view the stored electronic document at one of the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems;
a third component configured to record a designation of one or more blocks of text for signature tasks;
a fourth component configured to record an assignment of one or more users to one or more of the recorded designated blocks of text in a registered document;
a fifth component configured to present for review the blocks of text that are assigned;
a sixth component configured to record a selection of at least one of an acceptance option or a decline option for each of the assigned blocks of text;
a seventh component configured to execute a electronic signature of the assigned blocks of text; and

an eighth component configured to register the electronic document.

13. (New) The system of Claim 12, wherein the registered electronic document includes the designated blocks of text and associated users, an indication of a verification of the correctness of the designated blocks of text, information about the users assigned to the designated blocks of text, and electronic signature credentials for users registered with the document repository computer-based system.

14. (New) The system of Claim 13, further comprising:

a ninth component configured to allow retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks; and

a tenth component configured to allow retrieval of the stored electronic signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

15. (New) The system of Claim 12, wherein the fourth component configured to assign a completion deadline for the assigned users to complete assigned actions.